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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,894	10/02/2001	Johannes Theisen	1721	8720

7590 07/31/2003

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EXAMINER

HOANG, JOHNNY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3747	5

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/937,894	THEISEN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Johnny H. Hoang	3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2001.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

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reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 11, 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mingo et al (US 6,438,487 B1).

Regarding to claim 11, the reference of Mingo et al teaches the method and system for determining the operational state of a vehicle starter motor comprising: a circuit arrangement for controlling a starting relay (140) of a starter for a motor vehicle internal combustion engine, having a battery (130) which is electrically connected to the starting relay (140), and having a computer that is disposed in the control circuit of the starting relay (140), characterized in that between the computer and the starting relay (140), a memory circuit (110) is disposed, which during a chronologically limited undervoltage of the battery (20) is embodied to maintain the existing control signal (STEN) for the starting relay (19) (Fig. 1; col. 2, line 42 through col. 3, line 16).

Mingo

Regarding to claim 14, ~~Kendo~~ discloses the ignition switch (120) includes at least one OFF or lock position (122), an ACC position (124), a RUN position (126), and a START position (128) (col. 2, lines 48-58).

Regarding to claims 15-18, as above discussions.

Regarding to claims 19-20, (Figs. 3A-6; col. 3, line 47 through col. 6, line 29; and tables 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mingo et al in view of Kaiser et al (US 4,924,399).

The reference of Mingo et al discloses as above discussions except the memory circuit has a flip-flop. The reference of Kaiser et al teaches in fig. 2 shows how Input Data bus ID feeds a plurality of registers (13) through (21) which is comprising the flip-flop (27) (col. 3, lines 12-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method and system for determining the operational state of a vehicle starter motor of Mingo et al to include the memory circuit has a flip-flop as taught by Kaiser et al, so as to have utilized the circuit arrangement for generating the output signal from the battery to the circuit of a starter for a motor vehicle internal combustion engine.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The copies of U.S Patent are provided.

Hozuka et al (US 6,415,210 B2), Kondo (US 6,389,353 B2), Hemminger et al (US (4,888,697), Arnault (US 4,331,109), Davis (US 4,005,342).

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny H. Hoang whose telephone number is (703) 308-2782. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00Am-5: 30Pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on (703) 308-1946. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7766 for regular communications and (703) 308-7766 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

Hieu T. Vo
Hieu T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747
7/27/03

Johnny H. Hoang
Examiner
Art Unit 3747

JHH
July 24, 2003